

# Modest Observations

ON

The Present Extraordinary

# FROST:

CONTAINING

- I. A Brief *Description* thereof, and its Natural *Celestial Causes* inquired into.
- II. An Account of the most Eminent *Frosts* that have happen'd for many Hundred years past, and what followed thereupon.
- III. Philosophical *Presages* of what may be feared now to ensue, *viz.* *Scarcity* of Corn and Victuals, General Sickneses, and *Pestilences* in the next, or within some very few Succeeding years; with Cautionary Preventions.
- IV. The *Cries of the Poor*; and an easy Way Propos'd how there may be Twenty *Thousand Pounds* a Week, at least, rais'd for their Relief, about LONDON, and all Wanting People Plentifully Provided for, During this and the like *hard Seasons*, yet no Man be a Penny the worse in his Estate.

---

By T. T.

---

Entred According to Order.

---

London, Printed by George Lockin, at the lower End of Broadstreet, next to London-Wall.

# Abstract of Applications

The Board of Commissioners  
of the District of Columbia  
has received and considered  
the following applications  
for the purpose of  
granting or refusing  
the same.

1. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
2. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
3. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
4. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
5. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
6. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
7. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
8. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
9. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
10. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
11. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
12. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
13. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
14. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
15. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
16. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
17. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
18. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
19. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
20. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
21. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
22. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
23. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
24. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
25. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
26. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
27. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
28. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
29. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
30. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
31. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
32. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
33. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
34. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
35. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
36. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
37. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
38. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
39. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
40. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
41. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
42. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
43. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
44. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
45. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
46. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
47. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
48. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
49. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
50. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
51. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
52. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
53. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
54. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
55. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
56. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
57. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
58. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
59. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
60. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
61. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
62. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
63. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
64. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
65. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
66. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
67. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
68. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
69. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
70. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
71. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
72. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
73. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
74. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
75. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
76. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
77. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
78. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
79. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
80. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
81. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
82. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
83. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
84. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
85. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
86. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
87. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
88. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
89. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
90. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
91. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
92. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
93. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
94. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
95. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
96. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
97. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
98. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
99. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]  
100. Application of [Name] for [Purpose]

Witness my hand and seal  
this [Date] day of [Month] 19[Year]  
at the City of Washington,  
District of Columbia.  
[Signature]  
[Title]  
[Seal]

(1)

OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
FROST &c.

**T**He present Wonderful *Frost*, which is the General Theme of Discourse, and under the sad Effects whereof so many Thousands of Poor Creatures Shiver and Pine, and Languish; began about the midst of *December* 1683. at first by mean and ordinary Degrees, but towards *Christmas* became very Sharp; The first Week of *January* the River of *Thames* was so Frozen, that People began to Walk over; On *Monday January* the 7th, on the Change of the *Moon* in *Aquary*, there were Expectations, and some Likelihood of a *Thaw*; but presently after it *Froze* more vibly, and on the 10th and 11th in the morning, a *Coach* Plyed between the *Temple* and the *Old Barge house*; yet towards Night the 11th (the *Moon* having been in Opposition to *Jupiter*) it *Thaw'd* a little; and the 12 and 13th was fine Gentle Weather, yet not much Thawing; the Wind continuing still at *North-East*; On the 13th it Froze gain briskly, till the 17th, when a great *Snow* fell; the 18th high, most sharp, and peircing Winds, and on the 23d the Air was more severely Peircing than ever, and more *Snow* fell; And being the first day of the *Term*, *Coaches* Ply'd at the *Temple-Staires*, and carried the *Lawyers* to *Westminster* on the *Ice*; and thence forwards the same Continued, and whole Streets of *Shedds* every where built on the *Thames*, Thousands Passing Buying, Selling, Drinking, and Revelling, (I wish I could not say on the *Lord's Day* too;) and most sorts of Trades-Shops on the *Ice*, (and amongst the rest a Printing-house there Erected) *Bulls* Baird, and Thousands of Spectators; all which still continues at the Writing hereof, being *January* the 29th 1684.

Nay, below the *Bridge*, hundreds daily pass; The *River Hynder* (as I am credibly informed) where 'tis several *Miles* broad, is Frozen over, and Vast Flakes of *Ice* are seen Floating in the *Downes*, of Diverse *Miles* in Length, and proportionable Breadth.

As for *Celestial Causes* of this unusual Coldness, though undoubtedly they were not wanting (For God generally Governs *Inferiory* by *Superiors*) yet I find not that any of our *Common Pretenders* had the least Apprehension, or gave any *Hints* thereof. Not that I wholly Explode *Astrology*; I believe there is something in it, and that it may not be unfit for a *Wise* and *Modest* Man to Study: but our *Annual Prognosticators* are generally Men of little *Learning*, and less *Philosophy*, and (what is worse) many times very irregular in their *Lives*; The God of *Purity*, who Communicates his Secrets to those that fear him, Illuminates not *Debauchees*, *Sordid Flatterers*, and *Timeservers*, (whose whole end is to make a *Noise*, and Cheat People of their *money*.) with the knowledge of *Supernal Mysteries*; Nor can it be expected, That those who neither know things past, by *History*; nor take Notice of things *Present*, by any steady *Judicious Observation*, should yet foresee things to come.

Whether from any of the Late Tripple Conjunctions of the two *Superior Planets*, *Saturn* and *Jupiter*, or from some of the late unusually frequent *Comets*, particularly the last in *August* 1682: which in 20 days with a *Rapid* motion, making its appearance in *Leo*, hurried through all the Signs *Virgo*, and *Libra*, and disappear'd in *Scorpio*, A Sagacious Artist might not have given some *Items* of this Strange *Weather*, I will not Determine: But if *Comets* be only (according to *Aristotles* Notion, which I question) hot and dry *Exhalations* drawn up from the Earth, it would not be difficult to Judge that Severe *Colds* should ensue here below: For *Extreams* in Nature, if they are not *Causes*, are at least *Fore-Runners* of their *Contraries*: Nor have there wanted *Grand Configurations* of the *Superior Bodies*; During the time of this violent *Frost*, As a *Trine* of the *Sun* and *Jupiter*, an *Opposition* of *Saturn* and *Mars*. But leaving the Disquisition of these to the *Curious*, having not Room to Inlarge here, upon them; I hasten to satisfy the *Common Reader* with an *Historical Review* of former Occurrences of this kind; which may check that *Vulgar Cry* of Ignorance, That *Never, O Never was known the Like*.

*Livy* in his fifth Book tells us of a Winter so hard, That the River *Tyber* was frozen over, a matter very strange in such a Climate as *Italy*. In the year 1234 the *Adriatick* Sea was so frozen, that the *Venetians* went over the *Ice* thereof with *Carts*. *Zonaras* assures us, that in the Reign of that Emperour *Constantine* (who for a Nasty Reason in his Christning, was call'd *Copronymus*) about the year 750. the *Pontick* Sea, was so Congealed, That people for many miles travelled it on foot: And Horses and *Carts* loaden, passed over the *Fretum*, or *Narrow* part of it; But withal he adds, that the *Summer following* was so excessive hot and dry, that great Rivers and most *Fountains* were wholly dried up, and *People* and *Cattel*

Cattel perisht for want of water. In the year 821. the greatest Rivers of Europe, as the Rhine, the Danubius, the Elb, and the Sein, were so incrustured with Ice, that for the space of above 30 days, Carriages freely passed along on them, as on the Land.

But to look nearer home---In the year of our Lord 1365. and 49th year of K. Edward the 3d, A Frost lasted from the midst of September to the Month of April; but though so tedious, the Cold was nothing so intense or violent as now. In the 15th year of the Reign of K. Henry the Eighth, after great Rains and Wipds, there followed so fore a Frost, that many dyed for cold, and some lost Fingers, some Toes, and many their Nails: [I follow the very words of Sir R. Baker, fol. 297.] The same Author tells us, That in the seventh year of Q. Elizabeth, on the 21. of December, began a Frost so extream, that on New-Years-Day-Even people passed over the Thames on foot, some plaid at Foot Ball, some shot at Pricks, as if it had been firm ground; yet this great Frost, the third of January at night, began to Thaw; and by the fifth day, there was no Ice to be seen, but great Inundations followed.

In the year 1609. [which 'tis not impossible, but some Living might remember, being but 74 years ago] a Frost began in December, which continued till April following, with such violence, that the Thames was so frozen that Carts laden, were frequently driven over it, most Fowls and Birds were destroyed. In the year 1637. was another Frost, which rendred the Thames passable; so in the year 1664 immediately followed by the Great Sicknes; And the like towards the latter end of the year 1676.

Some of the Consequences of these extream Frosts, I have mentioned, more I might, all are not Convenient; those that consult Chronology, may easily satisfy themselves; a man may soon err in assigning Effects to such or such particular Causes, or adapting Events to Significators; Modesty is the first Lesson in Wisdoms School. Therefore as we have been studious in matter of Fact, past; but sparing as to Sequels; so we shall retain the same becoming tenderness as to Futures; wherein we shall steer our Course rather by the Guidance of Nature in her usual Operations here below, than by curious Researches into remoter influential Causes above; though not neglecting them neither. For the Universe is Intire, Harmonical, and Sympathetical, and he that does not competently understand the right Tone of the whole, and the true Key of every part, will make but bad Musick wherever he lays his Clumsy Fingers.

First then I say, This Extremity of Cold prefaces many Calamities and Evils to attend Mankind, and the rest of their Fellow-Creatures; for as the Innocent Inhabitants of the Air, or expanded Suburbs of Heaven,

viz.

*viz.* Birds and Fowls, are endangered by the Elements denying their usual Benefits and Provisions (wherein another fourth part of the Creation, *viz.* Fishes, are somewhat Concern'd) to *degrād'd* man, taking advantage of this *Cruel Weather*, does for *profit*, or *pleasure*, or *vanity*, destroy many thousands of them: Now this great destruction of them, is but a Fore runner of *Mortality* amongst Creatures of greater Value, and even of men themselves. Would you know the reason? I told you but now, Universal Nature is *Sympathetical*.

2dly. This immoderate Cold locks up the Pores of mens Bodies, and drives the natural Heat more Central, which occasions great Appetite and Drought, whence follows much and excessive Eating and Drinking of gross, fatt, succulent Foods, and strong Drinks; in all that have wherewithal to procure them; which the voracious desires do at present seem able to bear and digest, yet really Nature is not able to do it, and so by degrees there are seeds sown and Foundations laid for Diseases. On the other hand, amongst the Poor, Necessity of feeding on unfit and unusual Foods, for their support at present, or defect of due Nourishment, must to them do as much mischief; For want is as great (tho I think not so Common) an Enemy to Nature as Superfluity; The way to prevent these mischiefs is, for the Rich to observe Sobriety and Temperance, and for the Poor to use Discretion in their Diet, for a pint of Milk with a quarter of a pint of Water, thickned with one Spoonful of Flower, and heated just to Boiling, and then putting into it a few Crumbs of Bread, (all which will not cost above a Penny) shall give any person as nourishing a Meal as the best Stew of Beef or Capon. I mention not this to prevent Benevolences towards the Poor, which all that are able are bound to Afford, but only to Advise them how to supply themselves when they meet not with other Accomodations, but find Rich Mens Charity more Frozen than the Thames.

3dly. This Excessive Frost Condenses the Air, and renders it Sulphureous and Unhealthy, especially in such Cities as London, where Sea-coals are generally used for Firing, and most People (especially Women) creep close to those fulsome Fires, without using themselves to proper Exercises, whereby their Blood stagnates, and becomes thick and foul, whence are Generated the Scurvy, stoppages of the Breast, Coughs and shortness of Breath; the ill effects whereof will more manifest themselves next Spring and Summer.

4thly. This Disharmony and Inequality of the Elements, portends a dry hot Summer to ensue, for all Extremes (as before observ'd) produce their Contraries, which will not only Increase Distempers, but I fear some Epidemical Disease, and it is also a Fore-runner of Dearth and Scarcity





forward to Contribute to the Common Necessities; And what if you should resolve for *one Day in a week*, (at least during such an hard time) to restrain your selves from large Eating and *set Meals*; and wholly on that day forbear *Bibbing* of Wine and strong Liquors (I dare promise you, it shall be never the worse for your Health, but the better, as also for your *Business*) and Employ what you so Save, in Charitable Uses to the Relief of the Poor? Such a thing *has been done* on a worse occasion within our Memory, and therefore is not Impracticable. By this only means within *Londons* Bills of Mortality might easily be raised *Twenty Thousand pounds* a week for the Poor; And no Man a *Farthing* the worse, but even in his Estate the better (and much more in his Health, which is more Valuable than the greatest *Estate* in *Christendome*) for without dispute there are within that Circuit more than an Hundred thousand Families whose *Dinners* each Day Cost them (one with another) more than three Shillings each, I mean extravagantly, in *Flesh, Fowls or Fish*, when a little Bread and Cheese, *Milk* or the like, might as well, (nay I am sure would better) for once at least in a Week, supply Nature; Now one hundred thousand three Shillings is Fifteen thousand pounds; and then 'tis not to be doubted (since in this Age Generally more is spent in *Drink*, than *Vittuals*) but that there are above one Hundred thousand Persons that daily lavish away above twelve pence a Day in *Wine, Brandy, Ale*, or some strong Liquors, which they forbearing but for one day in a week, and bestowing as aforesaid, thereby may be raised Five thousand pound more, and so in the whole twenty thousand pounds a week, which justly distributed, would bravely supply *Four-score thousand* Families, at Five Shillings a week a peice, or afford an hundred and threescore thousand Poor People *half a Crown* a peice every week. And will you suffer such a Number of *Souls* to perish, for want, rather than abridge your wanton *Palates* and Infatiate *Paunches* of unnecessary, nay pernicious Danities, one only Day in a Week? Look up thou *Sottish Epicure* that *Denyest* it, and call thy self *Christian* hence forwards if thou *Darest*.

---

## ADVERTISEMENT.

There is lately published, A Treatise very Useful, Intituled *The way to Health, Long Life, and Happiness* &c. To be Sold by *Andrew Smith* at the Crooked Billet in *Holloway Lane* near *Shore-Ditch*.



